2nd November, 1933]

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Are the Government aware that it is absolutely certain that the levy of this cess as proposed by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Hide Merchants' Association will fall on the foreign purchaser of leather and not on the producer here?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"The Government are not satisfied that that is so."

Mr. F. Birley:—"Are the Government aware that the proposed cess of 2 per cent will mean a levy of approximately Rs. 50,000?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I am not sure about the figures."

Mr. F. Birley:—"Are the Government aware that non-official opinion in this Presidency is very definitely opposed to doing away with the Leather Trades Institute?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"That is why we are hesitating to abolish it."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Are the Government aware that even the Madras Chamber of Commerce is opposed to the abolition of the Leather Trades Institute?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I suppose so."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Are the Government aware that the Public Accounts Committee definitely recommended more than once the closure of this Institute?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"That is a suggestion to be put to the other hon. Members who advocate the opposite view."

Mr. F. Birley:—"Are the Government aware that the Madras Chamber of Commerce has not supported the Government's intention to do away with the Leather Trades Institute?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I cannot say offhand. I believe it is so."

Mr. Yakub Hasan:—"In view of the strong representations for the retention of the Leather Institute, will the Government be pleased to make up their minds to retain it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I cannot make any promise as to how Government will decide the matter."

Extent of import of Japanese rice into the Presidency.

* 278 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have information regarding the quantity of Japan rice imported into the Madras presidency during 1932–33 and in 1933–34 till now; and if so, what it is; and

(*b*) what steps have been taken by the Government to prevent foreign competition in the rice market?

	Year.	Quantity.
A.—(*a*)	1932–33	50 tons
	1933–34 (up to date)	Nil.

(*b*) The Local Government cannot prohibit imports. The question of prohibiting imports of foreign rice seems to be under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know whether this Government has sent any report to the Government of India, requesting them to prohibit Japanese rice?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"No, Sir. This Government did not send any report."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know the reason why they have not done so, while the importation of Japanese rice is affecting the ryots of this province?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"There is hardly any import now, as the hon. Member will find from the answer given. In 1932–33, the quantity imported was only 50 tons."

Mr. W. O. Wright:—"May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Local Government will address the Government of India by telegram pressing for the total prohibition of imports of foreign rice into India and of Indian rice being re-exported to India from foreign countries?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I shall consider the suggestion, Sir."

11-15 a.m. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Will the hon. Minister make further enquiries and ascertain whether Japanese rice is being now imported into the Province?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"The answer was given as recently as 24th October 1933 to the effect that only 50 tons had till then been imported into Madras."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether, as a result of the negotiations going on at present in Simla, any quota has been fixed for the import of Japanese rice into India?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"I do not know if they are discussing the question of import of rice at all."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"Are the Government aware that the fall in the price of rice and paddy is due to the import of rice and paddy from other places?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—"No, Sir. The Government have no such information."

2nd November 1933]

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask whether the Government are in a position to give the reasons for this absolute non-import of rice during 1933–34 till now and whether those reasons are temporary only or permanent?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I cannot say."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know the reasons for the non-import so far?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I cannot give the reasons off-hand."

Local Self-Government

Legislative proposals for the abolition of taluk boards.

*279 *Q*.—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government contemplate bringing in a Bill for the abolition of taluk boards; and

(*b*) if so, when the Bill is likely to be introduced?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are examining the question of the steps to be taken to meet the situation created by the unsatisfactory finances of many of the taluk boards. It is too early to say whether any legislation will be necessary and, if so, what form it would take.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" May I know if there is any proposal to appoint an officer or officers to investigate into this question?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I do not think there is any such proposal."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know if there is any proposal to appoint an assistant to the Inspector of Local Boards to help him to conduct an enquiry into this question?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" No, Sir. The Government have not completed the examination of this question at all."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" Is it the idea of the Government that those taluk boards which are in an unsatisfactory condition should be abolished and not dealt with in any other way?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI—" Government are still considering the best method of improving the financial condition of the local boards."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I ask whether there is any proposal to abolish the district boards?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot say that there is any definite proposal at present."